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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 04208.0101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Toshihumi TAKADA et al.)
)
Application No.: 09/832,190)
)
Filed: April 11, 2001)
)
For: CARD CONNECTOR)

Group Art Unit: 2833

Examiner: E.A. Leong

2003 MAIL ROOM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Japanese Patent Document Nos. 6-139415, 7-192102, 3-46969 are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a non-English language. In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, enclosed is an English language

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translation of the Office Action issued by the Japanese Patent Office in corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-319891 citing these documents and setting forth their relevance. Applicants also enclose copies of a partial English language translation of 3-46969 and English language abstracts of 6-139415 and 7-192102.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

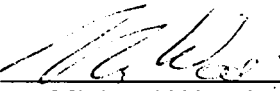
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

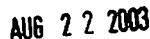
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Dated: August 22, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Group: 2833**Filing Date**
If Appropriate

**Translation
Yes or No**

102800 MAIL ROOM

Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce

(Translation)

Case No.: 3131-00

Mailing Number: 140864

Mailing Date: April 25, 2003

~~OFFICIAL NOTICE~~ OF REJECTION

Patent Application No. 2000-319891

Date of Draft: April 23, 2003

Examiner, The Patent Office: Yoji Sugasawa 7618 3K00

Agent for Applicant: Yoshikazu Tani, Esq. (and two others)

Applied Provision(s): Section 29, Paragraph 2

The present application is rejected for the following reasons. The applicant may present an argument, if any, within 60 days from the mailing date of this Official Notice.

REASONS

The present invention(s) as claimed in claims 1 to 4 set forth below would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, to which the inventions(s) pertain(s), prior to the filing date of the present application, on the basis of an invention(s) described in the publication(s) set forth below as distributed in Japan or foreign countries or an invention(s) made available to the public through the telecommunication line prior to the filing date of the present application. Therefore, the present invention(s) is(are) unpatentable under the provision of Section 29, Paragraph 2 of the Japanese Patent Law.

Remarks (see a reference list below)

- Claim 1
- References 1 and 2
- Remark

Reference 1 (refer to paragraphs [0019] to [0022], [0025], [0028], [0029], and [0049]; and descriptions of Figs. 1 and 3) discloses the following invention:

"A card connector for retaining in a connector housing, a card 1 having a bottom face in which a plurality of contact pads are provided so that the contact pads abut against a contact terminal 4 disposed in the connector housing, the card connector comprising:

an ejection mechanism having an ejection member 9 which moves in the card insertion direction while the card is inserted into the connector housing, and moves in a card ejection direction in response to a card ejection operation, thereby ejecting the card;

a locking piece 15 which is displaceable transversely of the connector housing and when the card is mounted, is engagingly locked with the ejection member so as to restrict movement of the ejection member in the card ejection direction; and

unlocking means 18 for unlocking the locking piece in response to the card ejection operation".

There is no structural difference therebetween except for a difference in that the lock piece engagingly locked with the ejection member is vertically displaceable in the invention according to claim 1, whereas it is horizontally displaceable in the invention disclosed in reference 1.

However, reference 2 (refer to paragraphs [0015], [0016], and [0020]; and the description of Fig. 5) discloses that "a lock piece 12 engagingly locked with a member 16 to be engagingly locked is vertically displaceable". Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to overcome the above structural difference from the invention according to claim 1 by applying a technical matter disclosed in reference 2 to the invention disclosed in reference 1.

Advantageous result of the invention according to claim 1 is predictable based upon the technical matters disclosed in references 1 and 2, and is not considered to be remarkable.

- Claim 2
- References 1 and 2
- Remark

Reference 1 discloses that "an engagingly lock portion 17b which locks with the lock piece 15 is formed at an ejection member 3". Therefore, the limitation of the invention according to claim 2 is a mere technical matter of the invention disclosed in reference 1.

- Claim 3
- References 1 and 2
- Remark

Reference 1 discloses that "an ejection mechanism comprises an ejection button 18, and unlocking means causes the lock piece 15 to be laterally displaced in response to movement of the ejection button, thereby unlocking the lock piece". Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to achieve limitation of the invention according to claim 3 by applying the above technical matter disclosed in reference 2 to the invention disclosed in reference 1.

- Claim 4
- References 1 and 2
- Remark

Reference 1 discloses that "unlocking means is a cam member having a cam face 21 which causes the lock piece 15 to be displaced in a transverse direction and in a vertical direction, the cam member being coupled with the ejection button 18". As a cam member, a plate cam is a mere routine technique. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to achieve the limitation of the invention according to claim 4 by applying the above technical matter disclosed in reference 2 to the invention disclosed in reference 1.

Reference List

1. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 2000-277207
2. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 6-139415

Record of Search Results of Prior Art Literature

Technical Field Searched: IPC, 7th Edition
 H01R13/635
 H01R23/68, 301
 G06K17/00

Prior Art Literature

Japanese Utility Model Application Laid-open No. Hei3-46969
 Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei7-192102

This Record of Search Results of Prior Art Literature does not constitute any reason for rejection.

拒絶理由通知書

特許出願の番号	特願2000-319891
起案日	平成15年 4月23日
特許庁審査官	菅澤 洋二 7618 3K00
特許出願人代理人	谷 義一(外 2名) 様
適用条文	第29条第2項

この出願は、次の理由によって拒絶をすべきものである。これについて意見があれば、この通知書の発送の日から60日以内に意見書を提出して下さい。

理 由

この出願の請求項1～4に係る発明は、その出願前日本国内において頒布された下記の刊行物に記載された発明に基いて、その出願前にその発明の属する技術の分野における通常の知識を有する者が容易に発明をすることができたものであるから、特許法第29条第2項の規定により特許を受けることができない。

記 (引用文献等については引用文献等一覧参照)

- ・請求項 1
- ・引用文献 1, 2
- ・備考

刊行物1(段落【0019】～【0022】、【0025】、【0028】、【0029】、【0049】及び図1, 3の記載参照)には、「底面に複数の接触パッドが設けられているカード1を、前記接触パッドがコネクタハウジング内に配されたコンタクト端子4と当接するように、コネクタハウジング内に保持するカードコネクタにおいて、コネクタハウジング内へのカードの挿入に伴ってカード挿入方向に移動するとともにカードイジェクト操作に応動してカードイジェクト方向に移動してカードをイジェクトするイジェクト部材9を有するイジェクト機構と、前記コネクタハウジングの左右に変位可能であって、カードが装填されたとき前記イジェクト部材のカードイジェクト方向への移動を規制するようイジェクト部材に係止されるロック片15と、前記カードイジェクト操作に対応して前記ロック片によるロックを解除するロック解除手段18と、を備えるカードコネクタ。」の発明が記載されている。

そうしてみると、イジェクト部材に係止されるロック片は、請求項1に係る発明が、上下方向に変位可能であるのに対し、刊行物1記載の発明は、左右方向に

変位可能である点、で両者は相違し、その他の構成に相違はない。

しかしながら、刊行物2（段落【0015】、【0016】、【0020】及び図5の記載参照）には、「被係止部材16に係止されるロック片12は、上下方向に変位可能である」記載があるから、請求項1に係る発明の相違点の構成は、刊行物1記載の発明に刊行物2記載の技術事項を適用することで当業者が容易になし得たものである。

そして、請求項1に係る発明の効果も、刊行物1、2記載の技術事項に基づいて予測できるものであって、格別のものは認められない。

・請求項 2

・引用文献1, 2

・備考

刊行物1には、「イジェクト部材3には、ロック片15に係止される係止部17bが形成されている」記載があるから、請求項2に係る発明の限定事項は、刊行物1記載の発明の技術事項にすぎない。

・請求項 3

・引用文献1, 2

・備考

刊行物1には、「イジェクト機構はイジェクトボタン18を備え、ロック解除手段は、前記イジェクトボタンの動きに応動してロック片15を左右に変位させて前記ロック片によるロックを解除する」記載があるから、請求項3に係る発明の限定事項は、刊行物1記載の発明に上記刊行物2記載の技術事項を適用する際に当業者が適宜なし得たものである。

・請求項 4

・引用文献1, 2

・備考

刊行物1には、「ロック解除手段は、ロック片15を左右上下方向に変位させるカム面21を有し、イジェクトボタン18に連結されるカム部材である」記載があり、カム部材として板カム部材は慣用技術にすぎないから、請求項4に係る発明の限定事項も、刊行物1記載の発明に上記刊行物2記載の技術事項を適用する際に当業者が適宜なし得たものである。

引 用 文 献 等 一 覧

1. 特開2000-277207号公報

2. 特開平 6-139415号公報

先行技術文献調査結果の記録

- ・調査した分野 I P C第7版 H01R13/635
 H01R23/68、301
 G06K17/00
- ・先行技術文献 実開平3-46969号公報
 特開平7-192102号公報

この先行技術文献調査結果の記録は、拒絶理由を構成するものではない。